



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 28, 2019

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I write to you today to propose a path towards better management of Utah's National Forests. Our eight million acres of National Forest lands are profoundly important to the people of Utah, as these lands are fundamental to our drinking water, air quality, wildlife, outdoor recreation, economy, and way of life. Utah's future is closely tied to the successful stewardship of our National Forests. Utahns are grateful for our National Forests and for the U.S. Forest Service's leadership in managing these critical lands for the benefit of the American people.

With this letter I hereby petition the U.S. Department of Agriculture for rulemaking and a new, Utah-specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act [5 U.S.C. §553]. Over four million acres of Utah's National Forests, approximately one half of Utah's Forest Service lands, are designated as "roadless" under the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Utah's forest ecosystems are unique, and they require specialized management tailored to Utah conditions. The development of a Utah-specific Roadless Area Conservation Rule is an opportunity to craft management that better responds to climate change, drought, disease, historic suppression of natural wildfires, insect infestations, and other challenges threatening Utah's National Forests.

I appreciate your willingness to consider Utah's petition for a state-specific rule. And I look forward to fruitful cooperation between the State and the U.S. Forest Service in the development of a Utah-specific Roadless Rule that meets the future needs of Utah's forests. Federal land management is most successful when it incorporates local knowledge and expertise to achieve the best results for public lands. I trust the U.S. Forest Service to work with the State, tribes, local governments, and stakeholders in crafting new management directives that preserve and protect Utah's National Forests for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert
Governor